



IN BRIEF - AN INFORMATION UPDATE

January, 2010

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) PROJECTS AND UPDATE

- The Malheur received nearly \$23 million dollars for facilities upgrades, roadwork, fuels and timber stewardship projects, and fuels reduction projects. In addition, \$5 million was awarded for a pellet plant.
- To date, over \$2.7 million has been awarded to 18 contractors. An additional \$5 million was awarded for a pellet plant in Grant County.
- Expect to award approximately \$16.8 million more in contracts or task orders.
- Anticipate filling approximately 50 temporary positions directly related to ARRA forest health projects – primarily doing surveys that will accomplish future projects such as timber sales and range allotment planning.
- Job fairs in partnership with the Employment Department are scheduled for January 27 in Canyon City, OR and February 2 in Burns, OR.
- The evaluation criteria for awarding contracts has been worded to emphasize the benefits to local communities which includes use of local contractors in Grant and Harney Counties. Benefit to local communities and relevant past performance are significantly more important than price.

Ensuring ARRA Success

Due to the compressed timelines, number of projects, and priority placed on accomplishment of ARRA projects, the Deputy Forest Supervisor, Teresa Raaf has been tasked with putting together a team of employees to ensure successful completion of our commitment to providing employment opportunities.

The purpose of this is to provide a dedicated focus of key individuals to ARRA project preparation and accomplishment. This will streamline communications, enhance issue identification and resolution, and establish a clear chain of command and shared decision making.

For more information, contact Pattie Hammett at 541-575-3144 or phammett@fs.fed.us

Pellet Plant

The pellet plant grant for \$5,000,000 was awarded to Malheur Lumber Company in partnership with Bear Mountain Timber Products. Estimated to be fully operational by the end of summer 2010. Anticipated annual consumption of 45,000 green tones of biomass. Purchase of biomass to begin this summer.

For more information, contact Curt Qual at 541-575-3438 or cqual@fs.fed.us

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Synopsis of ARRA Projects as of January 19, 2010

Blue Mountain Fuels and Timber Steward - \$7,500,000	
Hazardous Fuels Projects Awarded	\$791,760
Stewardship Projects Awarded	\$1,539,149
Pending Contracts and or Award	\$5,500,000
Temporary Employees/Extend Permanent Seasonal Appointment	\$400,000
Roads, Facilities and Recreation - \$11,802,035	
Roads Projects Awarded	\$64,776
Sign Purchase Awarded	\$7,924
Design for addition to Emigrant Creek Ranger District Office Award	\$62,890
Historical Structures Evaluations Awarded	\$64,171
Pending Contracts and or Award	\$11,352,273
Project Supports (COR's, etc.)	\$250,000
Collaborative Restoration Forest Health Support - \$3,630,000	
Heritage Surveys Awarded	\$160,000
Heritage Surveys Pending Award	\$978,600
Surveys, Lidar, Stand Exams, Tree Seed Improvements, etc.	\$956,700
Temporary Employees, General Project Support	\$1,534,700
Pellet Plant Awarded - \$5,000,000	

FUELS

- This fall the Forest completed 2,774 acres of slash pile burning. The piles were generated from thinning projects with the purpose of reducing fire hazard and improving overall forest health. 2,890 acres of low intensity underburning was also completed. The underburning was in the Flag Prairie area on the Prairie City Ranger District and the Antelope Valley area of the Blue Mountain Ranger District. The underburning was performed to help reduce the fire hazard and improve forage.

For more information, contact Roy Walker at 541-575-3105 or rlwalker@fs.fed.us

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ENGINEERING

- Overseeing design and replacement of the existing Prairie City Ranger District office. Construction is expected to start fall/winter 2010 and estimated completion is late 2011. District staff will relocate to the John Day office during construction.
- Grant County Airport and USFS Fire Airbase Joint Building is currently under construction in John Day, Oregon. It will house both the County Airport Staff and the Malheur National Forest Rappel Crew. It was 80% funded through Oregon Connect II dollars with a total of 20% contributions from the Forest Service and Federal Aviation Administration. Malheur NF Engineering Department is working with the architect during the construction phase. It is scheduled to be complete in the summer of 2010.
- Aquatics - Restoration of 23 miles of stream for all life stages of aquatic species and replacement of four fish barrier culverts is planned. Restoration work will include designing and replacing structures such as undersized and perched culverts that prevent fish movement up and down streams. Funding for these projects are congressionally earmarked for road restoration, including fish passage.
- Lands, Minerals and Special Uses - Work with external customers to provide special use permits for radio towers, road use and utility line work by utility companies continues. Additionally, the Forest is monitoring 40-50 active mine claims as well as abandoned mines for safety hazards on an annual basis.
- Road Maintenance - The Road and Sign shop manages and provides maintenance on approximately 850 miles of paved road, and 8,000 miles of high clearance roads.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECTS PLANNED

- **County Road 18 Fuels Break Project (HFRA) - Blue Mountain Ranger District**
- Reduction of hazardous fuels adjacent to approximately 21 miles of County Road 18.
- Decision signed: September, 2009.
- May include commercial/noncommercial thinning, natural and project generated fuel treatment, and prescribed burning on up to 4,000 acres.
- Expected offer - Spring, 2010.
- Estimated volume - 2 mmbf.

For more information, contact Lori Stokes at 541-575-3331 or lstokes@fs.fed.us.

Galena - Blue Mountain Ranger District

- Reduction of hazardous fuels and improving forest health on forest lands west of Austin Junction in the Vinegar Creek and Little Boulder/Deerhorn Creek subwatersheds.
- Includes commercial/noncommercial thinning, mechanical fuel treatment and underburning, road closures and decommissioning.
- Decision expected: Fall, 2010.
- Estimated volume - approximately 20-30 mmbf plus potential for biomass utilization.

For more information, contact Eric Wunz at 541-575-0340 or ewunz@fs.fed.us.

Damon Fuels Reduction Project (HFRA) - Blue Mountain Ranger District

- Reduction of hazardous fuels and improving forest health in Van Aspen and Shirttail subwatersheds.
- Proposed action is under development as part of collaboration with Blue Mountain Forest Partners.
- Includes commercial/noncommercial thinning, underburning, designating old growth stands, aspen thinning and protection.
- Decision expected: Spring, 2010.
- This is the second collaborative project with the Blue Mountain Forest Partners.

For more information, contact Ryan Falk at (541)820-3800 or rfalk@fs.fed.us.

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VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECTS PLANNED (CON'T)

Green Ant - Emigrant Creek Ranger District

- Formerly the Ant Project, revised due to 2007 Egley Fire Complex.
- Environmental Assessment (EA) released for public comment June 10, 2009.
- Decision Notice signed December 1, 2009.
- 45-day Appeal Period ended on January 25, 2010.
- Includes commercial/noncommercial thinning and aspen restoration.
- Expected offer - Winter/Spring 2010.
- Estimated volume - 3-4 mmbf.

For more information, contact Lori Bailey at 541-573-4366 or labailey@fs.fed.us.

Jane Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFRA) - Emigrant Creek Ranger District

- Scoping completed August 7, 2009.
- Currently developing alternatives.
- Environmental Assessment (EA) planned to be released for 30-day objection period in February 2010.
- Decision expected: April 2010.
- Includes commercial and precommercial thinning and biomass removal.
- Expected offer - June 2010.
- Estimated volume: 25-35 mmbf under multiple offerings.

For more information, contact Lori Bailey at (541)473-4366 or labailey@fs.fed.us.

Dairy - Emigrant Creek Ranger District

- Scoping completed in September 2003.
- Environmental Assessment (EA) planned to be released for public comment April, 2010.
- Decision expected: June/July 2010.
- Includes commercial and precommercial thinning and biomass removal.
- Expected offer - September 2010.
- Estimated volume: 1-2 mmbf.

For more information, contact Lori Bailey at (541)573-4366 or labailey@fs.fed.us.

Starr (HFRA) - Blue Mountain Ranger District

- Reduction of hazardous fuels and improving forest health on forest lands on the north and west sides of Bear Valley in the Starr Creek subwatershed.
- Includes commercial/noncommercial thinning, mechanical fuel treatment and underburning, road closures and decommissioning.
- Decision expected: Spring, 2010.
- Estimated volume - approximately 5-10 mmbf plus potential for biomass utilization.

For more information, contact Eric Wunz at 541-575-0340 or ewunz@fs.fed.us.

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